

The Board of Selectmen held a Neighborhood Meeting on Monday, November 8, 2010, at the Oakdale School, Cedar Street, Dedham, Massachusetts. Present were:

Sarah E. MacDonald
James A. MacDonald
Carmen Dellolacono
Michael L. Butler

Mr. Reynolds was not in attendance for this evening's meeting.

Department Heads in attendance: Fire Chief William Cullinane, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, Mariellen Murphy, Finance Director, Robin Reyes, Treasurer/Collector, Joe Flanagan, DPW Director, Cathy Cardinale, Bd. Of Health Director, Bill Ralph, Asst. Finance Director, David Field, Director of Engineering, Laura Leventhal, COA Director, William Keegan, Town Administrator, Ken Cimeno, Building Commissioner and Virginia LeClair, Environmental Coordinator.

Mr. Butler welcomed the neighbors in the audience. He introduced the Department Heads and Public Officials to the group. Mr. Butler handed the meeting over to the Town Administrator, William Keegan. Mr. Keegan informed the audience that this meeting gives him and the staff an opportunity to listen to the issues and requests that are important to the neighborhood. He went on to say that if the staff cannot answer a particular question this evening, they will ascertain information relative to their inquiries and get back to the residents as soon as possible. Mr. Keegan introduced the Department Heads to the audience and opened the meeting up to questions from the audience.

Barbara Gula, Curve Street Resident—Ms. Gula asked when Precinct 6 voters will be moved from the Oakdale School back to the Middle School. Ms. Gula went on to say that she is pleased with the Traffic Lights constructed at the intersection of Washington Street and Incinerator Road. Ms. Gula asked when the stretch of Washington Street roadway between Curve Street, Oak Street and Incinerator Road will be finished. Ms. Gula informed all that she believes that there are traffic enforcement issues on Curve Street and also an issue in Dedham Square with vehicles making u-turns in front of Centre Deli and Eastern Avenue.

Mr. Keegan suggested Ms. Gula speak with the Town Clerk to find out if there are plans to move Precinct 6 voters back to the Middle School. Relative to the Washington Street status, Mr. Flanagan informed all that there has been a delay in paving due to the current weather. He went on to say that the Washington Street paving is now on the schedule for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Once again, this is subject to local weather conditions. Relative to traffic enforcement, Mr. Keegan informed all that there are traffic problems wherever you go. Mr. Keegan commented that drivers who go over the speed in their vehicles present a social problem in the community. Mr. Keegan stated that the Police Department has written 6,000 moving violations this year--they are out there. Additionally, the Police Department has spent a significant amount of time relative to enforcement in the area of High Street and Maverick Street.

Pam Wong, Curve Street Resident—Ms. Wong asked the status of a piece of property owned by the late Alan J. Flynn, located at 25 Maverick Street. She commented that the property has been falling down for over the two years and asked if it will be condemned. Ms. Wong asked if the property will be turned over to the Town. Additionally, she was concerned with the loss of tax revenue to the Town. Ms. Wong stated that something should be done relative to this matter.

Mr. Reyes informed her that he is aware of this situation. Presently, the Town does not own the property; however, it does, in fact, have a lien. Mr. Reyes explained that the Town only has rights if the property is foreclosed. Mr. Reyes informed all that, to his knowledge, there are no survivors relative to Mr. Flynn's estate. Additionally, no one knows any of Mr. Flynn's next of kin.

Mr. Reyes informed all that the Town began a foreclosure on the property and are searching for relatives. Mr. Reyes went on to say that it is long process. Ms. Wong informed Mr. Reyes that Mr. Flynn's parents came from Ireland. Ms. Wong also stated that she took care of Mr. Flynn and he never mentioned relative living here. Mr. Reyes commented that if Mr. Flynn had relatives in Ireland, they have a right to be notified. Relative to the process, it is long and expensive. This is the reason why nothing has been done. Presently, the Town has no rights; however, if the house was considered to be a detriment to the community, it could be taken down--this process is also lengthy. Ms. Wong stated that the interior of the house is filled with wildlife—she can hear the animals. Additionally, the house and roof are literally collapsing and it is easy to enter.

Mr. Cimeno informed all that he has been by the house a few times over the past years since Mr. Flynn's death and to his knowledge, the house is secure. He went on to say that his last visit was a few months back; however, he will drive by the house again to check it out, especially the roof. If, as stated by Ms. Wong, the roof is falling in, he will secure it. Mr. Cimeno commented that it is his opinion that the overall structure of the house is sound. Presently, he could not declare the property structurally unsound.

Mr. Butler informed Ms. Wong that she is on the list for follow up and that Mr. Cimeno would look at the property by the end of the week and call her back with up-to-date answers.

Judith White, Whiting Avenue Extension Resident—Ms. White asked the staff if anything were happening at the Railroad Yard adjacent to her property. Mr. Keegan replied that the MBTA still owns the property and is presently working on cleaning up some issues on the site. Mr. Keegan went on to say that he did not have a timeframe as to when the work will be completed. Ms. Cardinale added that she has been in touch with the Property Manager and the work will be finished spring of next year. Mr. Flanagan commented that Whiting Avenue is in terrible shape and on the list for repaving next year. Mr. Keegan informed all that this is a complicated issue—a portion of the street is owned by the Town and the other portion is a Private Way, which means that the Town does not have the legal ability to repair this section. Mr. Keegan went on to explain that private ways receive all other Town Services, i.e. trash/recycle pick and snow removal; however, there is Town by-law that limits street repair funds relative to Private Ways to a maximum \$1,500.00.

Mr. Butler explained that the Town has no legal interest in Private Ways and that the resident owns the road. Mr. Butler. Additionally, 1/5 of the roads in Dedham are Private Ways. Mr. Butler informed Ms. White that Mr. Dellolacono and himself have an upcoming meeting with the Town Administrator and Director of Engineering to investigate some solutions relative to the Private Ways.

Dan Hart, Harvard Street Resident—Mr. Hart congratulated the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Keegan and staff relative to the award of the PWED Grant for Dedham Square. Mr. Hart had some concerns with the traffic configuration around the Police Station, Washington Street and Harris Street. He expressed his concerns with the large volume of traffic on East Street Extension.

Mr. Field informed him that, in fact, the volume of traffic on East Street Extension is small and that most vehicles will travel on the VFW Parkway/Route 1 rather than Washington Street. Mr. Field commented that they are monitoring East Street and will address the issues in a few years. For now, there are no plans; however, they will keep an eye on this area.

Mr. Hart asked for the structure and status of the Avery Re-Use Committee. Mr. Butler informed him that the new Avery School is presently under construction and is expected to open in the spring, 2012. He commented that the children and teachers are anxious to move into their new school. Relative to the old Avery School—the school will be declared surplus and revert back to the Town. Additionally, the Town has formed a nine-member Avery Reuse Committee. This committee will meet and discuss the various uses for this property going forward. Mr. Butler named the members of the committee. They are as follows: Paul Reynolds, Joe Heisler, Marie Naughton, Jen Barsamian, Charlie Kruger and Barbara Gula. Mr. Butler went on to say that the committee will hold its first meeting some time before Christmas.

Joe D'Amico, Mt. Vernon Street Resident—Mr. D'Amico had concerns relative to the Yard Waste Pickup Schedule, specifically the pickups during the months of July and August. He mentioned that there were two pickups in July and no pickups in August. Mr. D'Amico thought that this schedule was confusing—he asked for a review of the schedule going forward. Mr. D'Amico also had concerns with the timing of traffic lights on East Street adjacent to the Assisted Living Community and asked for assistance.

Bill Gorman, 216 Jefferson Street Resident—Mr. Gorman thanked the Board of Selectmen for arranging the Town Hall Neighborhood forums.

Mr. Gorman expressed his concerns with the traffic on Rustcraft Road relative to Legacy Place and the apartment complexes—it was his observation that traffic is cutting through Jefferson Street to get to Oakdale Square. Mr. Gorman asked if the Board could arrange traffic count sensors in this area during the holidays. Mr. Gorman went on to say that vehicles are flying through the intersection, especially when the light turns yellow to red—Mr. Gorman asked for assistance from the Police Department. He complained that the Endicott Station property, now owned by the Town, is an eye sore. Due to the foot traffic in this area daily, he requested a clean up in the lot going forward. Mr. Flanagan informed him that the Town maintains the platform. Additionally, he will place a bin near the ramp going up to the platform for trash.

For Mr. Flanagan's attention, Mr. Gorman mentioned a catch basin on Elmwood that is not working properly. He also mentioned potholes on streets in his neighborhood that need maintenance. Overall, Mr. Gorman thought the appearance of the Town had changed and it looks great—he complimented the DPW and Dedham Civic Pride for their efforts.

On another matter, Mr. Gorman brought to the Board's attention the fact that the traffic lights at the intersection of Elm Street were out of sync—he thought someone might get hit. He went on to say that the light was short in the afternoon (Legacy Place across to Elm Street toward Dedham Savings); however, the light was longer during the evening hours. Mr. Flanagan informed Mr. Gorman that he spoke with the State relative to the lights. They are aware of the issue and are watching. Mr. Flanagan informed him that he will call the State again for an update relative to this matter.

Relative to a Health Department matter, Mr. Gorman asked the status of the Flower Shop situation in Oakdale Square. Ms. Cardinale informed him that she has been in touch with the owner and he is

making progress cleaning up. Ms. Cardinale informed him that she will follow up and get back with him. Going forward, Ms. Cardinale asked Mr. Gorman to contact her office if he has further questions.

Relative to the Trash/Recycle Program—Mr. Gorman was not sure what goes into the recycle bin. Ms. LeClair informed him that articles acceptable and not acceptable are listed on the Town's Website. Ms. LeClair asked Mr. Gorman to call her office if he had questions.

Mr. Butler commented that when Legacy Place was approved by the Planning Board, the Town and Legacy developers agreed to have a Traffic Study after the opening to access the accuracy of the projections and how to proceed in the future.

Relative to the roads—Mr. Butler informed all that there are 80 miles of roadway in the Pavement Management Plan and the Town is 40 miles into it—some major work and some work not so major. He went on to say that the roads are being addressed and funding for the Pavement Management System is at the same level for the next 4 to 5 years.

Relative to the Trash/Recycle Program—Mr. Butler informed all that recycling has more than doubled around the Town this year. Mr. Butler asked for residents to submit their ideas to the Board for next year. Mr. Butler stated that if, as a Town, we recycle more, it will not only be good for the planet but also good for future tax dollar savings.

Mr. Keegan was proud to announce to the audience that he will be attending a ceremony in Boston next month, on behalf of the Town, to receive the Small Community Recycle Award. He went on to say that the team set one goal relative to recycle, which it has met. Now, the team would like to surpass this goal and go forward to the next level.

Relative to Hebrew Senior Life—Mr. Gorman noticed in the Dedham Police Logs that there have been numerous calls for ambulance/hospital calls at HSL—he asked if this is going to be a burden on the Town. Mr. Gorman's recollection from prior Planning/Conservation meetings was that HSL was self-contained and will draw very little from the Town's resources. Mr. Gorman asked if the Town is tracking the emergency/ambulance calls. Mr. Keegan informed Mr. Gorman that the Town is tracking this data through the Fire Department. Additionally, the Town has a five year agreement with the Ambulance Company at no charge to the Town—costs are paid through private insurance.

A resident in the audience asked Chief Cullinane how many responses there have been at Legacy Place. Chief Cullinane responded that as of October, 2010, there have been 250 responses to HSL and 150 responses to Legacy Place. Ms. MacDonald reminded all that HSL's payment is lieu of taxes is \$650,000.00. Additionally, the Assessors have hired a consultant to research/evaluate certain pieces of Newbridge on the Charles taxes. Chief Cullinane added that relative to the Planning Board arrangement, the Town and HSL will look at this situation in February, 2011 to analyze the best course of action going forward.

Oak Street Resident—Resident commented that he likes to walk on Oak/Russell Street on his way to East Dedham Square; however, the road/sidewalk is slippery and full of pine needles on Russell Street and he has to walk in the street, which he believes is not safe and a dangerous situation for the residents who live in this area. Mr. Flanagan informed him that he would have a staff member visit the area when the rain stops to pick up the pine needles. The resident thanked Mr. Flanagan for looking into this matter.

Cecelia Butler, 163 Mt. Vernon Street Resident—Ms. Butler asked the group how much the trash cost went down this year. Mr. Keegan informed her that when Russell started their services they went from 10,800 tons a year to 8,000 tons (Waste collected and disposed). He went on to say that with the new automated program it is now 6,000 tons and dropping. Mr. Keegan stated that the program is working.

On another matter, Ms. Butler asked how much the Town will receive relative to the Meals/Hotel Tax. Mr. Keegan's estimate was One Million Dollars. Mr. Butler added that the annual basis relative to the Meals/Hotel Tax comes to approximately \$940,000/\$950,000. Mr. Dellolacono commented that this number is pretty accurate; however, it may fluctuate going forward. Mr. Butler informed all that this money will initially go to the State. Additionally, the State will send the funds back to the Town for Town Meeting approval to transfer into the Stabilization Fund. Mr. Dellolacono commented that these funds cannot be moved until Town Meeting approves it. Mr. Dellolacono went on to say that he is looking forward to these funds for future projects. He also mentioned that the funds will stay in the Stabilization Fund Account until Town Meeting states where the funds should go. Mr. Keegan added the authorization needs a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting before the funds can be transferred.

Kristen Overton, Dartmouth Street Resident—Ms. Overton asked the Police Chief to explain the pickup trucks in their fleet and also asked who painted the Fire Hydrants yellow. Fire Chief Cullinane informed her that the Dedham Westwood Water painted the hydrants. Police Chief D'Entremont informed her that there are two 4-wheel drive Ford Expedition Pickup Trucks in his fleet to be used especially in inclement weather and snow storms. He explained that having an open bed in each truck is more useful when his staff has to transport traffic cones, radars and other items.

Resident, 90 Sanderson Avenue—Resident commented that it would be helpful if there was a Recycle Day after Christmas—she suggested that the Board schedule a town-wide pickup on the day after Christmas. On another matter, the resident commented that traffic enforcement on Sanderson Avenue has been very helpful and she is pleased. Additionally, she asked if the Town would consider placing a sidewalk on Rustcraft Road to accommodate pedestrian foot traffic going to the pickup the train and visit Legacy Place. Mr. Flanagan informed her that the Rustcraft Road sidewalk request is listed as an item in his department's capital plan request (Amount: \$750,000). Mr. Keegan commented that this request might be difficult to achieve; however, the team is trying to be creative. Mr. Keegan went on to say that there will be a Capital Improvement Meeting coming up soon—he encouraged her attendance.

Mary, Winthrop Street Resident—Mary asked Mr. Flanagan when the storm drain on her street will be fixed. Mr. Flanagan informed her that it is a cost issue. He also mentioned that Winthrop Street was not on the list this year and is not on the three-year plan. Presently, his staff is trying to maintain and clean out the Winthrop Street basin every other month and has also cleaned out the catch basins in her area. Mr. Flanagan went on to say that the water in the basin has reduced from what it was in the past. Mary asked when the berms will be addressed. Mr. Flanagan commented that he will look at the situation tomorrow.

Karen O'Connell, Economic Development Director, gave an update relative to her department. She spoke about the green culture in the Town and State and what is expected. Ms. O'Connell spoke about the small business in the Town and how they can save money and energy. Ms. Connell informed all that the Town of Dedham is leading the way in solar energy going forward

Laura Leventhal, Council on Aging Director, gave an update relative to her department. She informed all that she has been employed by the Town of Dedham for the past 5/6 months and she finds the position to be challenging and exciting—she is pleased to work for the Town. Ms. Leventhal discussed various senior topics relative to embracing the future, retirement and long-term care. Ms. Leventhal invited everyone in the audience to visit the Council on Aging facility located at Traditions, Washington Street, in Dedham.

Pat McGuire, Hitchens Drive Resident—Ms. McGuire had concerns with the sidewalks on Maverick Street. She stated that they were very dangerous. Additionally, the traffic on Maverick Street has increased with more anticipated when the new Avery School opens. Ms. McGuire asked if a yellow line could be placed down the middle of the street. Mr. Flanagan informed her that presently, the street did not warrant a yellow line. Additionally, in the future, curbing will be bumped out 2 ½ feet from the bridge to the corner. Ms. McGuire commented that she thought the street was dangerous. Mr. Field informed her that the volume of traffic will indicate whether the street warrants a yellow line.

Ms. McGuire also had an issue with sidewalks on Mt. Vernon Street. Mr. Keegan informed her that the Town is trying to fix the sidewalks and has just rebuilt a portion of the Mt. Vernon sidewalk this year. Mr. Keegan went on to say that some sidewalks had tree issues—the trees were removed. Mr. Keegan informed all that the Town is not in a position to construct new sidewalks on Mt. Vernon Street, have to take land, etc.

Doug Hause, Blossom Street Resident—Mr. Hause asked when Blossom Street would be paved—he mentioned that the aprons and granite curbing have to be finished. Mr. Hause mentioned the traffic issues in Oakdale Square and safety of the intersection. He went on to say that Blossom and Dale Streets are cut through areas. Chief D'Entremont discussed police presence and the activity in the neighborhood. Mr. Keegan mentioned that Dedham is a cut through community. He went on to say that it is not easy to manage especially during certain times of the day—it is very challenging. Chief D'Entremont informed all that he is making this issue a very high priority and will be working on it going forward.

-Jim Maher, Parks and Recreation Commissioner, asked for volunteers/visitors to attend the event on November 19, 2010, at the Churchill Park Playground.

-Ms. MacDonald informed all that the Oakdale Alliance will meet tomorrow night, 7:00 p.m., at the Endicott Estate.

-On a positive note, Ms. MacDonald informed all of a Dedham resident's home that was broken into on August 13, 2010. She went on to say that the Police Department responded in a very professional manner. Within 2/3 weeks, Detectives Walsh and Diethenoff recovered everything that was taken from the home and it was returned to the resident. Additionally, the people that were involved in the break were arrested.

Joe Findlen, Precinct 4 Chairman, thanked the Board of Selectmen and Department Heads for arranging the Neighborhood Meeting this evening. Mr. Butler thanked the audience and asked everyone to keep in touch.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen's Neighborhood Meeting held on November 8, 2010, which Minutes were approved on April 14, 2011.

Sarah E. MacDonald, Chairman